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Agenda item 93 (f)
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Letter dated 5 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

You will recall that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 52/188 and 53/183, *inter alia*, decided to convene a special session for a duration of three days, from 30 June to 2 July 1999, in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. It also decided that the Commission on Population and Development should serve as the preparatory body for the special session.

In pursuance of this mandate, the Commission on Population and Development, acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly met at United Nations Headquarters from 24 to 31 March 1999. The preparatory committee held six meetings and a number of informal working group meetings.

The working group carried out extensive negotiations on a working paper submitted by me as its Chairman on proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In the time available for the session, substantial progress was achieved in forging consensus in many substantive areas.

Regrettably, in view of the complexity of the subject and the diversity of views on some contentious issues, the preparatory committee has not been able to finalize its work on the main substantive document for the special session, and has decided to recommend that the General Assembly at its fifty-third session authorize the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee to hold a resumed session for four days in May or June 1999 in order to complete its work. I strongly believe that this would be vital to the overall success of the committee as well as of the special session itself.

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I should like to have this letter brought to the attention of the General Assembly for appropriate action and considered as a matter of urgency.

(Signed) Anwarul Karim **Chowdhury**
Chairman of the
Commission on Population and Development
acting as the preparatory committee